

From: Walt Asher
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 2:59pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Pursuant to the Tunney Act, I am writing to comment on the proposed settlement of the United States vs. Microsoft antitrust case.

I am just an ordinary user. I am not a computer guru even though I did build my first computer from a Heathkit. I generally like the Microsoft Windows operating system, however, I did not like the way they have forced people to use their other products.

Microsoft had seems to have pushed computer manufactures to include a wide range of their products. As a result so many people use Microsoft Office only because it was included as a free program with the computer when they purchased it. That is ceratinly unfair. I have been using Corel WordPerfect for several years and found it far better than Microsoft Word, yet few people use it and even fewer computer manufactures include it.

Another complaint I have is that I am forced to accept Microsoft products that I don't need because Microsoft includes them as part of the operating system. Intenet Explorer is a perfect example. I do not like and do not use Internet Explorer, yet it has to be installed on my system. I am not computer literate enough to remove it without causing problems to the operating system. Microsoft could sell a version without Internet Explorer very easily. I am of the strong opinion that Microsoft should be forced to sell the striped down version ONLY. Anyone wanting Internet Explorer, or any other Microsoft product, should be be required to make an effort to obtain that product just is they must do now for Netscape, WordPerfect, etc. When that happens, the market will decide which products are used by businesses and individuals.

One final remedy which I strongly believe should be implemented is that Microsoft should be required to reveal how its other programs are integrated with the operating system. This would allow other software manufactures to make the use of their products interface with and convient to use as Microsoft now does with their products.

These things would make Microsoft windows and stand alone product for the benefit of everyone. It will open the doors to fair competition and allows the markey to decide what it wants rather than having Microsoft decide so they can increase the profits and shut out everyone else.

I have not problem with Miercsoft making tons of money. I object to being forced to give them my money for products I don't like and don't use just because they have to power to do so.

Thank you,

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